

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 079038
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-03 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 HA-05 /091 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:TNILES:EK
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
NEA:ALATHERTON
IO:RLBARRY

-----008368 280121Z /64

O 280053Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PEPR, LE, US, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI THREAT OF RETALIATION AGAINST FURTHER
PLO SHELLING

REF: BEIRUT 1652

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED REUTERS DISPATCH FROM JERUSALEM
QUOTING ISRAEL DEFMIN WEIZMAN TO EFFECT THAT UNLESS
PLO SHELLING OF ISRAELI POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON
CEASES WITHIN 48 HOURS, ISRAEL WILL BE FORCED TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 079038

RETALIATE.

2. CONSEQUENCES FOR CEASE-FIRE AND UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT
FROM RENEWED IDF OPERATIONS ARE OBVIOUS, AND DEPARTMENT
BELIEVES WE SHOULD MAKE STRONG DEMARCHES IN DAMASCUS,
BEIRUT AND JIDDA AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE ON MARCH 28,
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A) UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT INTO THE AREA SOUTH OF THE LITANI IS PROCEEDING AS SCHEDULED.

B) WE REGARD UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AS ESSENTIAL TO GAIN THE OBJECTIVE OF SECURING ISRAELI EVACUATION OF THE LEBANESE TERRITORY IT CURRENTLY OCCUPIES.

- C) THE MAJOR THREAT WHICH WE CURRENTLY SEE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR DUAL OBJECTIVES OF ISRAELI EVACUATION AND UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IS CONTINUED SHELLING OF ISRAELI POSITIONS IN LEBANON AND SITES INSIDE ISRAEL FROM PLO UNITS IN TYRE AND NABATIYA.

D) ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN HAS THREATENED TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION UNLESS THIS SHELLING IS HALTED WITHIN 48 HOURS (EFFECTIVELY 24 HOURS FROM NOW).

E) IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO OUR SHARED INTERESTS FOR THE CEASE-FIRE TO BREAK DOWN AND FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL TO BE INTERRUPTED. INDEED, THE ALARMING COUNTERPOINT OF PLO SHELLING AND ISRAELI RETALIATION COULD IRREPARABLY CRIPPLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFIL WHICH IN TURN IS CRITICAL IN BRINGING ABOUT RAPID ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 079038

F) WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF ----- TO TAKE ALL STEPS WITHIN ITS POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE PLO UNITS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON OBSERVE A CEASE-FIRE AND HALT ALL OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAELI-HELD POSITIONS OR ON AREAS INSIDE ISRAEL ITSELF.

3. USUN SHOULD APPROACH FRENCH MISSION TO ALERT THEM TO DEMARCHE WE ARE MAKING AND URGE THAT THEY MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH IN KEY CAPITALS.

4. FOR DAMASCUS IN PARTICULAR: YOU WILL HAVE TO CAST YOUR PRESENTATION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE RELAYING AN EXPLICIT ISRAELI THREAT. SINCE WEIZMAN'S REMARKS ARE IN THE PUBLIC VIEW, YOU COULD POINT OUT -- IN MAKING THE ABOVE POINTS -- THAT WE WILL BE URGING RESTRAINT ON THE ISRAELIS AND THE PROMPTEST POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR FORCES. THE SHELLINGS, HOWEVER, CAN ONLY WORK TO DELAY WITHDRAWAL WE ARE URGING.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: YOU SHOULD ALSO COUNSEL RESTRAINT WITH WEIZMAN AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ISRAELIS. EXPLAIN

TO THEM THE STRONG EFFORTS WE ARE AGAIN MAKING IN
KEY CAPITOLS AND WITH THE FRENCH. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 079038
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:DJMANGAN

APPROVED BY IO:TBROWN

-----015474 282257Z /66

R 281925Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS 7792

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079038

FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 079038 ACTION DAMASCUS BEIRUT JIDDA
TEL AVIV USMISSION USUN CAIRO AMMAN MAR 28.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PEPR, LE, US, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI THREAT OF RETALIATION AGAINST FURTHER
PLO SHELLING

REF: BEIRUT 1652

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED REUTERS DISPATCH FROM JERUSALEM
QUOTING ISRAEL DEFMIN WEIZMAN TO EFFECT THAT UNLESS
PLO SHELLING OF ISRAELI POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON
CEASES WITHIN 48 HOURS, ISRAEL WILL BE FORCED TO
RETALIATE.

2. CONSEQUENCES FOR CEASE-FIRE AND UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 079038

FROM RENEWED IDF OPERATIONS ARE OBVIOUS, AND DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD MAKE STRONG DEMARCHES IN DAMASCUS, BEIRUT AND JIDDA AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE ON MARCH 28, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A) UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT INTO THE AREA SOUTH OF THE LITANI IS PROCEEDING AS SCHEDULED.

B) WE REGARD UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AS ESSENTIAL TO GAIN THE OBJECTIVE OF SECURING ISRAELI EVACUATION OF THE LEBANESE TERRITORY IT CURRENTLY OCCUPIES.

- C) THE MAJOR THREAT WHICH WE CURRENTLY SEE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR DUAL OBJECTIVES OF ISRAELI EVACUATION AND UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IS CONTINUED SHELLING OF ISRAELI POSITIONS IN LEBANON AND SITES INSIDE ISRAEL FROM PLO UNITS IN TYRE AND NABATIYA.

D) ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN HAS THREATENED TO TAKE MILITARY ACTION UNLESS THIS SHELLING IS HALTED WITHIN 48 HOURS (EFFECTIVELY 24 HOURS FROM NOW).

E) IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO OUR SHARED INTERESTS FOR THE CEASE-FIRE TO BREAK DOWN AND FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL TO BE INTERRUPTED. INDEED, THE ALARMING COUNTERPOINT OF PLO SHELLING AND ISRAELI RETALIATION COULD IRREPARABLY CRIPPLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFIL WHICH IN TURN IS CRITICAL IN BRINGING ABOUT RAPID ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

F) WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF ----- TO TAKE ALL STEPS WITHIN ITS POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE PLO UNITS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON OBSERVE A CEASE-FIRE AND HALT ALL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 079038

OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAELI-HELD POSITIONS OR ON AREAS INSIDE ISRAEL ITSELF.

3. USUN SHOULD APPROACH FRENCH MISSION TO ALERT THEM TO DEMARCHE WE ARE MAKING AND URGE THAT THEY MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH IN KEY CAPITALS.

4. FOR DAMASCUS IN PARTICULAR: YOU WILL HAVE TO CAST YOUR PRESENTATION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE RELAYING AN EXPLICIT ISRAELI THREAT. SINCE WEIZMAN'S REMARKS ARE IN THE PUBLIC VIEW, YOU COULD POINT OUT -- IN MAKING THE ABOVE POINTS -- THAT

WE WILL BE URGING RESTRAINT ON THE ISRAELIS AND THE
PROMPTTEST POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR FORCES. THE
SHELLINGS, HOWEVER, CAN ONLY WORK TO DELAY WITHDRAWAL
WE ARE URGING.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: YOU SHOULD ALSO COUNSEL RESTRAINT
WITH WEIZMAN AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ISRAELIS. EXPLAIN
TO THEM THE STRONG EFFORTS WE ARE AGAIN MAKING IN
KEY CAPITOLS AND WITH HITH THE FRENCH. VANCE UNQUOTE COOPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, THREATS, REPRISALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE079038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TNILES:EK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780133-0932
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780318/aaaaaori.tel
Line Count: 233
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3b3cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 1652
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3181144
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI THREAT OF RETALIATION AGAINST FURTHER PLO SHELLING
TAGS: PEPR, LE, US, IS, PLO
To: DAMASCUS BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b3cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014